

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 00059 281848Z

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS: POST-MEETING DISCUSSIONS,
FEBRUARY 28, 1975 (SALT TWO-540)

1. MIRV VERIFICATION. ROWNY (AND EARLE WITH SHCHUKIN/TRUSOV, A-735) SAID HE STILL DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE BASIC QUESTION; HOW DO WE TELL WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICULAR LAUNCHER CONTAINS A MIRVD OR UN-MIRVD MISSILE? SHCHUKIN SAID THAT THE ANSWER WAS CONTAINED IN THEIR REFERENCES TO THE USE "OVER TIME" OF THE "TOTALITY OF THE NTMS AT OUR DISPOSAL". HE SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF SYSTEMATICALLY OBSERVING AND PROCESSING THE DATA.

2. ROWNY SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE USE OF THE WORD "SYSTEMATIC". WAS SHCHUKIN IMPLYING WE SHOULD USE THE MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL IN A MORE SYSTEMATIC MANNER? OR DID SYSTEMATIC HAVE TO DO WITH THE PERIOD OF TIME OVER WHICH THE SAME MEANS WERE USED? SHCHUKIN ANSWERED: "BOTH." FIRST, WE HAD NTMS AT OUR DISPOSAL WHICH WERE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN WE APPEAR TO ESTIMATE. SECONDLY, WHAT ONE COULD NOT DETERMINE WITH A SINGLE OBSERVATION, COULD BE DETERMINED WITH A SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS AND WITH THE PROPER ANALYSIS OF DATA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SALT T 00059 281848Z

3. TRUSOV SAID THE CURRENT PROBLEM WAS ANALOGOUS TECHNICALLY TO DETECTION BY RADAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT FIRST ONE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DISCRIMINATE A TARGET FROM IT CLUTTER. HOWEVER, OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, WITH MORE CAREFUL OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS, ONE COULD MAKE THESE DISTINCTIONS. HE SAID THAT IF AT THIS TIME THE U.S. COULD NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN MIRVD AND UN-MIRVD MISSILES, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

4. ROWNY TOLD SHCHUKIN HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THEY COULD GIVE SOME CLUES. WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT A BETTER SIGNATURE AT THE LAUNCHER, EITHER BY THE LAUNCHER ITSELF OR ITS ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT, OR WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT THE COLLECTION MEANS THEMSELVES? SHCHUKIN SAID THAT HE HAD REFERENCE TO THE COLLECTION MEANS THEMSELVES AND WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT SIGNATURES ON THE GROUND. HE REPEATED THAT THERE WERE SCIENTIFIC MEANS AT HAND WHEREBY WE COULD ASSURE OURSELVES, HAVING BUILT UP A SUFFICIENT DATA BASE, OF THE ANSWERS WE NEEDED.

5. TRUSOV SAID THEIR SIDE HAD A PROBLEM TOO BUT THEY WERE CERTAIN THEIR VERIFICATION WOULD BE ADEQUATE. ROWNY SAID THAT IF THE SOVIET SIDE WAS NOT CERTAIN THEY COULD VERIFY WHICH U.S. MISSILES WERE MIRVD WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HELP THEM SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM. ROWNY SAID HE WAS SEEKING A RECIPROCAL OFFER FROM TRUSOV TO HELP US SOLVE OUR PROBLEM.

6. EARLE SAID THAT IN WORKING OUT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED THAT WE WOULD COUNT LAUNCHERS AND NOT MISSILES. THIS WAS SO BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHICH LAUNCHER CONTAINED A MISSILE AND THEREFORE THE WORSE-CASE COUNTING METHOD HAD BEEN ADOPTED. EARLE SAID THE QUESTION WAS NOW FAR MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE WE NOT ONLY HAD TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A MISSILE IN THE LAUNCHER BUT WHETHER THE MISSILE WAS MIRVD. IN PARTING SHCHUKIN SAID THAT WE NOW HAD, OR SOON WOULD HAVE, THE CAPABILITY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. JOHNSON

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